

Mr. CLARKE. I would as soon have Gen. Grant as Gen. Lee to settle it.

Mr. SANDS. I would as soon have anybody else as Franklin Pierce. Look at his history and the party who acted with him. They went to a Convention in Baltimore, in 1852, and made a solemn promise to the people of the United States that they would never reopen the subject of slavery either in Congress or out of it.

Mr. BEARY, of Prince George's. I would remind the gentleman that he has passed away from Mr. Clay's speech without giving us the names of the opponents of the Compromise measures of 1850; and I would ask him if James Alfred Pearce, of this State, was not one of the opponents.

Mr. SANDS. I do not know how that was. I know that in the latter part of his life he was thought to favor secession. I do not say that it was so, but he was very shrewdly suspected of it.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Most unjustly.

Mr. SANDS. If gentlemen will look at his record in Congress they can see.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I knew him intimately, and I know he never favored that doctrine.

Mr. SANDS. I am glad of it. Now, in regard to Franklin the faithless; Pierce the promise-breaker. Now, look at him, and the party which then acted with him, which called itself the democratic party, but which was no more democratic than the Czar of Russia, or any other autocrat, or any aristocrat. That party went to Baltimore, and made this solemn pledge to the people: Elect us to power, and this slavery question shall never be opened up again, in Congress or out of it.

Now, I put this to democrats: They talk about saving the country. Why, they could not save themselves. They went to Charleston, but could not hold themselves together, even in such a poor, little, insignificant capacity as delegates to a nominating Convention; but split all into fragments; even the cohesive power of public plunder could not keep them together.

In 1852, they made this express and explicit promise to the people: Elect us to power, and this slavery question shall never again be agitated, either in Congress or out of it. Is not that true? I pause for a reply. [After a pause.] Did they not make that promise to the people? Yet, without regard to the compact of 1820, which was a compact as contra-distinguished from a Constitution; without regard to the compact of 1850; in spite of their express promise to the people made in Baltimore city in 1852; in less than two years after that they violated every pledge which they had made to the people of the United States when they were asking to get into power; and not only that, they violated the solemn, legal, binding obligations of forty years' standing. They wiped out

the Missouri Compromise line, and lighted up in your far-off Western territories the torch of civil war. A beautiful individual to send on a national mission—his Franklin the faithless; Pierce the promise-breaker.

Mr. CLARKE. Say General Grant, then.

Mr. SANDS. General Grant is on that mission now. [Laughter and applause.]

These democrats broke every promise they made to the people. That is history. Gentlemen may walk around it as much as they please. They may talk for three hours at a time to get around it, but to this complexion must they come at last, even if they paint their bad cause a foot thick. The gentleman has begotten in me the desire to make a quotation. It is the remark of the old gravedigger—"Get you to your lady's chamber, and tell her that although she paint a foot thick, yet to this complexion must she come at last." They may paint and plaster as much as they please; but they cannot shut it out from the intelligent people of this country that the democratic party has brought this national ruin upon us; quarrelling first among themselves, and then setting the people to quarrelling.

Now let us trace up these measures from 1853, '54, when the democratic party broke their promises to the people. What is the next legislation by Congress touching the question of slavery? You have it in acts which organized every foot of territory which belonged to the United States, and organized that territory expressly upon the ground of the Dred Scott decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. Are not gentlemen aware of the fact, which I assert here without the fear of contradiction, that the very last Congress of which these men were members, in the session of 1860 and '61, organized every foot of territory which belonged to the United States, exactly in accordance with the Dred Scott decision? Let gentlemen consult the proceedings of Congress at that time, pages 239 and 272 of the Congressional Globe, and they will find the organizing acts of the territory which belonged to the United States.

Now these gentlemen who have violated all the Constitution, who continued all the time they were doing it to protest that they loved the Constitution, that they revered the Constitution, that they honored the Constitution; and, poor fellows, they could not live without the Constitution, they remind me of the account in the good old Book of one man who met another and said to him: "How art thou, my brother?" and then drew his sword and stabbed him under the fifth rib so that he died. And just so with these men who loved the Constitution, who honored the Constitution, in whose eyes it was all good; yet while protesting their love for it they endeavored to murder it, as far as they were able to do so.

Now it has been a long time known what